

From: bj chippindale
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/1/01 12:59am
Subject: Proposed Settlement = slap on the wrist

Dear People

No other software company/OS vendor on earth controls both applications AND the OS they run on as Microsoft does. Their dominant applications ("Word" etc) allow them to ignore problems in the OS. The temptation to sabotage competing applications through manipulation of the internals of the OS is irresistible. That was the fate of Wordperfect, a better Word Processor. Checking the most recent reviews, it is STILL better. It is also almost completely bankrupted.

Microsoft has been found guilty, and quite correctly. Their greed and their incompetence have led us to things like "nimda" and "code red" which have cost the REST of the industry billions of dollars. If they split into an OS company and an applications company, the OS company would quickly face competition from "Word" running on Linux that would cause it to take security and reliability seriously. Word has to run on Linux for that to happen. Can you order that without breaking up the company? It is that or breaking the monopoly that MS Office has on the desktop.

No... but you DO propose to "force" them to provide software free to the schools of the nation and they will be laughing all the way to the bank. They have been trying to wrest the schools away from Apple for a decade and you will REWARD them for their criminal behavior by handing them an even larger mind and market share. Since profanity is not appropriate to this letter I cannot tell you what I really think of this. Force them to distribute Wordperfect Office Suite instead of hustling "Word" in the schoolyards... but they won't go for anything that actually "punishes" them.

You are the watchdog. If YOU roll over and play dead we are defenseless. It is my opinion that this "settlement" does nothing to punish Microsoft for the crimes of which it has been found guilty and far less than nothing with respect to the crimes it has actually committed. I am furious with this supposed punishment. It is bizarre, it is a travesty of justice and if it stands it will be remembered as a black day for the US computer industry. THREE monitors for their code base? Pardon me while I laugh... and cry.

I am a software professional with long experience in the industry. I often am forced, unwillingly, to use the bug

ridden trash that Microsoft provides. That tells ME that they are a monopoly. I *have to* use their products when someone elses product is a better more reliable choice. I know the difference. I know their history. I know their products. BREAKUP is the very best solution, best for the country and best for Microsoft. Having to really compete with other platforms instead of riding their application's dominance and exclusivity would really tighten up their security and reliability. I would LIKE to be able to recommend a Microsoft product once in a while... but unless they are broken up it will not happen in my lifetime.

respectfully

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